

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a plurality of business software components, the method comprising:

discovering information about a first stand-alone business software ~~application~~~~component~~, the first business software ~~application~~~~component~~ having at least one first component capability or first component requirement;

binding the at least one first component capability or first component requirement to a first role in a model-driven bus;

discovering information about a second stand-alone business software ~~application~~~~component~~, the second business software ~~application~~~~component~~ having at least one second component capability or second component requirement; and

binding the at least one second component capability or second component requirement to a second role in a model-driven bus.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of discovering information about the first stand-alone business software ~~application~~~~component~~ is performed by a discovery manager.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of discovering information about the second stand-alone business software ~~application~~~~component~~ is performed by a discovery manager.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of discovering information about the first stand-alone business software~~component~~ occurs automatically.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the step

of discovering information about the second stand-alone business software~~component~~ occurs automatically.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the automatic discovery occurs as part of installation of the first stand-alone business software~~component~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information about the first stand-alone business software~~component~~ is metadata.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the information about the second stand-alone business application~~component~~ is metadata.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one capability of the first stand-alone business software application~~component~~ overlaps at least one capability of the second stand-alone business software application~~component~~, and wherein the model-driven bus provides arbitration such that only one of the first and second stand-alone business software application~~components~~ provides the overlapping function.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, and further comprising:  
providing standardized messaging between the first and second stand-alone business software application~~components~~.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising:  
examining role bindings to determine if a business process can be enabled.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein examining includes

comparing process role bindings to predefined process pattern information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the predefined process pattern information is part of a pattern fitness layer.

14. (Currently Amended) A business software system embodied on at least one computer readable storage medium, the system comprising:

a software bus having a temporally stable interface designed in accordance with a comprehensive business taxonomy;

a first business software applicationselement bound to and fulfilling a first portion of the software bus; and

a second business software applicationselement bound to and fulfilling a second portion of the software bus.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a message routing layer for communication with each of the software applicationselements.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a pattern fitness layer to check information relative to the first and second software applicationselements.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes an administration layer to facilitate user management of the applicationselements.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a replication layer.

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes an auditing layer.

20. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus includes a key performance indicators layer.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the software bus is usable with different comprehensive business taxonomies.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein each of the different comprehensive business taxonomies is domain-specific.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions defining a standardized adapter comprising:

- a software component side custom-configured to interact with a specific business software component; and

- a standardized side coupled to the software component side and adapted to interact with a standardized, durable application programming interface, wherein the standardized side includes data relative to at least one business process that is not supported by the software component.

24. (Original) A method of retrofitting a stand-alone business software component for use in an automatically integrating business software system, the method comprising:

- describing capabilities of the stand-alone business software component with metadata;

- describing requirements of the stand-alone business software component with metadata; and

- generating a standardized software adapter to interface the stand-alone business software component to the integrated business software system.